

REMARKS

The Applicant thanks Examiner Gentle E. Winter for his helpfulness and courtesy in conducting a telephonic interview on April 20, 2004. The interview concerned a lack of clarity in the claim language, as perceived by Examiner Winter. The present amendments were made solely in the interests of promoting clarity. The present amendments were not made to distinguish over prior art and do not narrow the scope of the claims.

Status of Claims:

Claims 1-34 are pending in the application. Each claim defines an invention that is novel and unobvious over the cited art. Favorable consideration of this case is respectfully requested.

Disclosure Supporting the Instant Amendment:

Claims 1 and 23 are amended for purposes of clarity. Support for this recitation was present in the original disclosure at, for example, page 4, line 5.

Allowable Subject Matter:

All claim rejections under §§ 102 and 103 were withdrawn in view of Applicants amendment and arguments presented in the paper filed 21 November 2003. The Examiner has indicated that the specification, as originally-filed, supports the recitation "forming an intact and contiguous film of a fluid."

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st Paragraph:

Claims 1-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st Paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specifications in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The Examiner deems the specification to support the recitation "forming an intact and contiguous film of a fluid," but not the recitation "applying." Claims 1 and 23 are hereby amended to recite "forming." Further amended language is hereby incorporated, solely for purposes of clarity, in view of the above-referenced interview with Examiner Winter.

Conclusion:

In view of the above, consideration and allowance are, therefore, respectfully solicited.

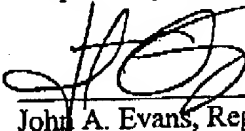
Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the foregoing amendments be entered, that the application as so amended receive an examination on the merits, and that the claims as now presented receive an early allowance.

In the event the Examiner believes an interview might serve to advance the prosecution of this application in any way, the undersigned attorney is available at the telephone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment associated with this communication, including any extension fees or fees for the net addition of claims, to Deposit Account No. 22-0185.

Date: April 20, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



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